

Penicillium the Mold vs. Penicillin the Antibiotic?

Penicillium is the mold from which Penicillin the antibiotic was first isolated. If you are allergic to Penicillium the mold, this does not necessarily mean you are allergic to the antibiotic Penicillin or any of its derivative, including Cephalosporins, (you still may be allergic to the antibiotics, but the tests are unrelated)

This depends on how allergic you are to mold and what your clinical problems are. Horst, et al, showed in a well designed double blind, placebo controlled study (so neither the doctors nor the parents knew if they were receiving mold allergy shots or placebo) that patients benefited significantly from allergy shots for Alternaria exact. They required less medicine and had less symptoms, including improvement in their sinus symptoms and asthma symptoms. Individual should discuss their allergy test results and whether they might benefit from allergy shots with their physician.

Molds:

- Alternaria: cottony appearance, green/black, on plant material, usually outdoors, very common, easily airborne.
- Aspergillus: yellow to black, one of the most common indoor molds, common in soil, damp hay, grain, fruits, etc.
- Cephalosporium: soft wooly appearance, light rose color, soil, dust in textile plants
- Cladosporium (Hormodendrum): dark, olive green, velvety, compost heaps, after rain, paper/wood products
- Curvularia: velvet surface, grey brown, airborne and plant material
- Fusarium: cobweb like mycelia, green garden plants, wet weather, very common
- Helminthosporium: reddish/brown, cottony appearance, cereal grains (corn, wheat, oats, & rye)
- Monilia: white to orange, wool like appearance, soil borne, breads and pastries
- Mucor: pale yellow/brown, soil, barns, barnyards, animal waste
- Penicillium: white to blue/green, soil, airborne spores, very common
- Phoma: brown felt like appearance, paper products, books, magazines, paints, plants
- Rhizopus: white to brown/black, bread, meats, root vegetables, plants